

Asking that you support HB 5018. As a liquor agent for over thirty years, we have watched our bottom line compensation steadily erode because of mandatory minimum wage increases, greatly increased rents, mandated paid sick leave, medical costs, insurances, utilities, and with covid a whole array of extra costs with hazard pay, increased labor with sanitizing and monitoring, masks, etc. Unlike most retail businesses we can not adjust our liquor prices to cover these costs. For over thirty years we have been working under an antiquated compensation system that does not keep up with inflation or other costs. Agents stepped up big this year being on the front lines and keeping the stores open during covid. Not only generating the dollars forecast by the Liquor Commission, but and additional 30 plus million for the general fund. Its time for the legislature to step up and fix a thirty plus year old problem so agents can pay competitive wages & benefits, invest in their stores, and have enough left over to invest in retirement as we receive no benefits from the State.

Thank you for a YES vote. Richard Grady